

Aric Newhouse

Senior Vice President
Policy and Government Relations

October 4, 2011

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives:

The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), the largest manufacturing association in the United States representing manufacturers in every industrial sector and in all 50 states, urges you to support H.R. 2681, the Cement Sector Regulatory Relief Act of 2011.

U.S. manufacturers have spent years improving the environment by investing billions of dollars in new pollution control technologies and building new plants that comply with our nation's environmental laws. We fully support efforts to protect our environment and improve public health through a commonsense regulatory framework.

Environmental laws and regulations, however, must be designed with care to ensure they are effective in achieving their desired objectives, while at the same time avoiding unnecessary adverse economic impacts and job losses. Within the past 14 months, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued three new regulations that, when implemented, could have a crippling effect on the nation's cement manufacturing industry, its suppliers, customers and workers.

A recent study found that one of these regulations alone – the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) or Cement MACT – could force the closure of nearly 20 percent of U.S. cement plants in the next two years, eliminating thousands of high-paying jobs. In addition to further downsizing domestic payrolls and manufacturing capacity, the rule is expected to cost the industry – which generates \$6.5 billion in annual revenue – \$3.4 billion over three years.

H.R. 2681 would give the EPA more time and better guidelines for developing achievable rules without devastating an industry so critical to U.S. manufacturing and economic recovery.

The NAM's Key Vote Advisory Committee has indicated that votes on H.R. 2681, including procedural motions, may be considered for designation as Key Manufacturing Votes in the 112th Congress. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Aric Newhouse

Key Manufacturing Vote